

Health Update: Contaminated Magnesium Sulfate Blood Stream Infections

April 11, 2005

This document will be updated as new information becomes available. The current version can always be viewed at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov>

The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance which warrants immediate action or attention from Missouri health providers, emergency responders, public health agencies, and/or the public.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation, including that impacting neighboring states; may not require immediate action.

Health Guidances contain comprehensive information pertaining to a particular disease or condition, and include recommendations, guidelines, etc. endorsed by DHSS.

Health Updates provide new or updated information on an incident or situation; can also provide information to update a previously sent Health Alert, Health Advisory, or Health Guidance; unlikely to require immediate action.

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**FROM: JULIA M. ECKSTEIN
DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: Update of Serratia Marcescens Bacteremia Associated
with Contaminated Magnesium Sulfate**

In follow-up to the Department of Health and Senior Services Health Advisory issued on March 19, 2005 regarding *S. marcescens* bacteremia associated with contaminated magnesium sulfate from PharMEDium (March 18, 2005), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration have obtained new information in their ongoing investigation. Because evidence exists to implicate at least three contaminated PharMEDium lots of magnesium sulfate, CDC recommends that magnesium sulfate solution from PharMEDium not be administered to patients until the scope of contamination can be determined. PharMEDium is voluntarily recalling all 50 ml. magnesium sulfate admixtures. These 50 ml. preparations will not be available until further notice.

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